

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201043

13

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 PCH-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 IO-14

EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /207 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GKULICK/RSBARRETT:CRJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT

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R 122146Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES BY POUCH

XMT AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REPORT 1

REF: MASERU 1069

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR THE INFORMATION OF
ADDRESSEE POSTS AND FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 201043

2. THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY HAVE DEPOSED EMPEROR HAILE

SELASSIE, SUSPENDED THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARED A MILITARY GOVERNMENT. IN A RADIO BROADCAST SEPTEMBER 12 THE ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE, A GROUP OF MIDDLE-RANKING OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN THAT HAS BEEN EXERCISING INCREASING AMOUNTS OF AUTHORITY SINCE IT ESTABLISHED ITSELF LAST JUNE, ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD "ASSUMED FULL GOVERNMENT POWER, UNTIL A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES A NEW CONSTITUTION AND A GOVERNMENT IS DULY ESTABLISHED." DEFENSE MINISTER LT. GEN. AMAN MIKAEL ANDOM HAS BEEN NAMED PRIME MINISTER, REPLACING MIKAEL IMRU WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF INFORMATION. MOST OF THE MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY RETAIN THEIR POSTS. CROWN PRINCE ASFA-WOSSEN, NOW IN SWITZERLAND CONVALESCING FROM A SEVERE STROKE, WAS NAMED BY THE AFCC TO SUCCEED HIS FATHER, BUT AS "KING", NOT EMPEROR, AND WITH NO POLITICAL POWER. HE MAY DECLINE.

3. EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE 82-YEAR OLD EMPEROR WAS DRIVEN FROM HIS NATIONALIZED PALACE TO 4TH DIVISION HQ WHERE HE

HAS BEEN DETAINED ALONG WITH 200-ODD OTHER FORMER NOTABLES, INCLUDING HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER WHO WAS PICKED UP YESTERDAY. THE DEPOSITION CLIMAXED A SEVERAL WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM AND VILIFICATION IN THE PRESS, ACCUSING THE EMPEROR OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEATHS OF 100,000 PEOPLE BY INACTION AND COVER-UP OF THE DISASTROUS DROUGHT, STEALING "BILLIONS" OF DOLLARS OF NATIONAL WEALTH AND SALTING IT AWAY IN FOREIGN BANKS, AND HIGH LIVING WHILE HIS PEOPLE WERE STARVING.

4. THE REVELATIONS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN UNDERCUTTING THE POPULAR SUPPORT WHICH HAILE SELASSIE APPEARED TO ENJOY THROUGHOUT HIS LONG REIGN. EVEN THE PATRIARCH OF THE ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, OF WHICH THE EMPEROR IS TITULAR HEAD, ISSUED A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE AFCC AND ITS "ETHIOPIA FIRST" REFORM MOVEMENT. CURIOUS CROWDS GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE NOW EMPTY NATIONAL PALACE, BUT ADDIS ABABA HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CALM. ARMED TROOPS AND TANKS ARE DEPLOYED AT KEY INTERSECTIONS AROUND THE CITY, AS MUCH FOR SYMBOLIC REASONS AS ANY OTHER.

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PAGE 03 STATE 201043

5. THE ADDIS ABABA AIRPORT HAS SHUT DOWN AND ALL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH LINKS WITH THE OUTSIDE HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY CUT. THE AIRPORT IS EXPECTED TO REOPEN IN TWO DAYS. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED LOURENCO MARQUES.

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